

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

Examination Board –AQA

From the beginning of time, humans have engaged in activities that we now call religion, such as worship, prayer, and rituals. Religions have always asked fundamental questions, such as: What is the true meaning of life? What happens to us after death? How do we explain human suffering and injustices? These questions are still relevant today.

Religious Studies is a lively and stimulating GCSE subject that provides a great opportunity for students to engage with current issues, developing social, cultural, political and historical awareness. It encourages philosophical thought and decision making skills, enabling students to discuss and analyse topics they encounter in society and through the media. RS helps students to develop an understanding of their own values and beliefs, gaining a greater sense of their own identity, learning how to respect the rights and responsibilities of others. The study of religion helps students to learn how to think critically, listen empathetically, speak thoughtfully, and write clearly - all skills that will be of great use no matter what you go on to do in life.

Course content

The study of religions: Teachings and practices of Christianity and Buddhism.

Theme A: relationships and families.

Theme C: religion and life.

Theme D: religion, peace and conflict.

Theme E: religion, crime and punishment.

Assessment

This course is assessed through two written examination papers at the end of year 11.

Each paper will require students to answer a one mark, two mark, four mark, five mark and twelve mark question.

Homework

Department policy is for at least 45 minutes -1 hour per week to be set aside for students to complete a homework task or consolidate and review their learning. Students will be expected to attend supportive revision sessions which will run weekly before the examinations.

Next steps

This GCSE covers two of the major world religions and four contemporary ethical themes, ensuring students have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore. Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.